DOCTOR OF MEDICINE
ADMISSIONS
A PROVINCE-WIDE APPROACH

Our program is designed to educate and train students in communities across BC, where there is an urgent need for more doctors, particularly in rural, northern and remote areas. A total of 288 medical school positions are available across four regional program locations:

192 students
in the Vancouver Fraser Medical Program (VFMP), based at UBC’s Point Grey campus

32 students
in the Southern Medical Program (SMP), based at UBC’s Okanagan campus

32 students
in the Island Medical Program (IMP), based at the University of Victoria

32 students
in the Northern Medical Program (NMP), based at the University of Northern British Columbia

All students follow the same curriculum, and all earn a UBC medical degree.

Graduates then proceed with postgraduate/residency training ranging from two to five years – depending on the specialty – to become fully licensed physicians.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

The Faculty of Medicine is committed to a policy of inclusiveness, equity, and transparency. We seek well-rounded students with excellent academic and non-academic abilities from a variety of backgrounds, and who are motivated, mature, and have a genuine concern for human welfare.

Because of the urgent need for more doctors in every region of the province, particularly in rural and northern areas, we encourage those who want to practice in remote or underserved communities to apply.

Although all MD students study the same curriculum and complete the same program requirements, the MD Undergraduate Program offers several pathways for entry, and each may require applicants to provide additional information. These include:

Northern, rural, and remote admissions
Applicants interested in studying in northern, rural, or remote communities are encouraged to consider the Northern, Southern and Island Medical Programs. Applicants must complete the Rural and Northern training section of the application, which helps determine the suitability of applicants for the Northern Medical Program and a select number of positions in the Southern and Island Medical Programs. Experience in rural, remote, northern, and Indigenous settings, along with community ties and activities, factor into this assessment.

Indigenous admissions
Applicants who self-identify as Canadian Indigenous Persons (First Nations, Metis, and Inuit) can be considered under the Indigenous admissions pathway. This requires supplementary documentation and an additional interview. A number of resources are available for prospective Indigenous students. To learn more contact our Indigenous Initiative Coordinators at indigenous.md@ubc.ca.

MD/PhD admissions
The combined MD/PhD Program is a 7-year program offered jointly by the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Graduate Studies and is designed for students who want to pursue careers as clinician scientists. For more information on the program and application procedure visit: mdprogram.med.ubc.ca/mdphd.

All applications are submitted electronically through the online application system.
WHAT ARE THE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS?

Admission to the MD Undergraduate Program is very competitive. Preference is given to BC residents, with only 10% (29 seats) of the annual medical school seats available for out of province applicants.

To be eligible to apply and enter the MD Undergraduate Program an applicant:

- Must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada by the application deadline
- Must have a minimum of 90 university-transferable credits (with grades) completed by April 30 in the year of program entry
- Must have a competitive Overall (or Adjusted) academic average to receive a full file review consisting of a full academic evaluation, a non-academic evaluation, and where appropriate, an Indigenous essay and/or northern and rural suitability assessment
- Must have a valid Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) with minimum scores of 124 in each section
- Must have a minimum of 6 credits (two semesters) of English coursework

Courses in Biology, General Chemistry, and Biochemistry are strongly recommended, but not required.

Please visit our website for a comprehensive overview of admission requirements and timelines.

International students

We regret that we are unable to admit international students.

Refugee eligibility

We will accept applications from candidates with refugee status in Canada. Admission will be contingent on:

- obtaining permanent residency in Canada and
- providing proof of this status to the MD Admissions Office two weeks prior to the start of classes.

A one year deferral can be requested if a refugee status applicant is unable to provide proof of permanent residency within the above stated time frame. All deferrals are made at the discretion of the MD Admissions Office.

HOW ARE CANDIDATES EVALUATED?

Our students are of all ages and come from all walks of life, including urban and rural backgrounds, science and humanities degrees. This diversity makes the MD Undergraduate Program a fascinating place to learn and grow.

Academic scores are critical, but we believe that a strong non-academic background is equally important in demonstrating an applicant’s suitability to become a doctor. Applications are evaluated based on the following criteria:

Academic:
- Overall (or Adjusted) academic average
- MCAT score

Non-academic:
- Report of non-academic experiences
- Employment history
- Research publications
- Interview (when offered).
- Three references (academic, community, and professional), Indigenous essay and/or Rural and Northern training section, if applicable.

Non-academic activities and achievements are evaluated using the following categories: leadership, service ethic, capacity to work with others, diversity of experience, and high performance in an area of human endeavor.

Generally, higher scores are assigned to activities that demonstrate significant levels of responsibility, initiative, and commitment. Intentional community involvement is valued and can encompass a variety of experiences within and outside of the health care setting, in paid or volunteer positions.

ADMISSIONS TIMELINE

1. Application
   - Application deadline mid-September
2. Evaluation
   - File evaluation September to December
   - MCAT deadline October 1
3. Interview
   - Invitation sent out early December
   - Interviews held early February
   - Supplemental application forms due mid-February
4. Selection
   - Final selection process mid-February to early May
5. Offer
   - Offers sent out mid-May: $1,000 deposit required upon acceptance
6. Admission
   - Orientation week at UBC in Vancouver late August

Credit: University of Victoria Photo Services
VFMP, IMP, SMP, NMP) in order of their preference. Additionally, applicants invited to interview must submit three letters of reference. These are typically an academic reference, a service reference and a professional reference. More information about the reference letters is sent to applicants who are invited for an interview.

In the final stage of selection, all applications are rigorously reviewed and evaluated, leading to a final list of candidates who will receive offers of admission.

Meeting the minimum admission requirements does not guarantee admission to the program, as the number of qualified applicants significantly exceeds the number of available positions. However, if you are a qualified candidate who is not admitted, you are welcome to apply in any subsequent year.

WHAT ELSE DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?

The online application system (OAS) can be accessed through the MD Admissions website. There you will also find a help guide, outlining how to complete the application. All applicants, regardless of site preference or pathway of entry, must apply through the OAS.

Offers to the UBC program are site specific and are binding. Applicants are encouraged to thoroughly consider all options and only rank sites at which they would be willing to live and study.

On average, educational expenses are $22,000 for each of the four years of the MD Undergraduate Program, excluding accommodation and living expenses. Information on financial planning and assistance can be found at: mdprogram.med.ubc.ca/student-resources/financial-support

HOW ARE STUDENTS SELECTED?

Our selection process is designed to choose well-rounded students who meet the goals of our distributed program. Students are expected to perform well in the rigorous curriculum and case-based learning format, as well as balance and enrich their academic experience with strong non-academic skills and interests.

Once applicants complete the online application, their files are evaluated to determine interview offers.

Interviews are typically held in February and are conducted in the multiple mini interview format (MMI) where each candidate rotates through approximately 11 different interview stations. Following interviews applicants submit their site preference by ranking sites (e.g.

The information presented in this brochure is based on a typical admissions cycle and subject to change.